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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,304	08/21/2003	Mark A. Leimer	60680-1748	9211
10291	7590	11/04/2004	EXAMINER	
RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC 39533 WOODWARD AVENUE SUITE 140 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-0610			MOULIS, THOMAS N	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3747		

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/646,304	LEIMER, MARK A.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Thomas N Moulis	3747

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/21/03</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 6-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Binford et al.

The reference discloses a valve stem seal assembly having the claimed elements including a retainer 50 having an outer surface with a first gripping member 54; and a cap 10 made of flexible metal material having a tab 12 with a second gripping member 38 for engaging the first gripping member on the retainer to snap-fit the cap on the retainer. The cap is removed from the retainer by bending the tab 12 outward so the second gripping member 38 no longer engages the first gripping member 54 on the retainer. SEE Figs. 1-2.

Claims 1-2, 6-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fisher ('445).

The reference discloses a valve stem seal assembly having the claimed elements including a retainer 46 having an outer surface with a first gripping member 50; and a cap 52 made of flexible metal material having a tab with a second gripping member 56 for engaging the first gripping member on the retainer to snap-fit the cap on the retainer.

The cap is removed from the retainer by bending the tab outward so the second gripping member 56 no longer engages the first gripping member 50 on the retainer.

SEE Fig. 1.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kammeraad ('061). The reference discloses a valve stem seal assembly having the claimed elements including a plastic retainer having an outer surface with a first gripping member 258 and a cap 238 made of flexible metal material having a tab 241 with a second gripping member 257 for engaging the first gripping member on the retainer to snap-fit the cap on the retainer. The cap is removed from the retainer by bending the tab outward so the second gripping member 257 no longer engages the first gripping member 258 on the retainer. SEE Figs 1-2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-5 and 9-11 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisher in view of Kammeraad ('061). Fisher discloses a valve seal as discussed above. However the retainer member is not made from plastic. Kammeraad discloses a plastic retainer member. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize a plastic retainer as taught by Kammeraad within the valve seal arrangement of Fisher to reduce the weight and cost of the apparatus.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note the various valve stem seals having snap-fit connectors and various materials such as plastic.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas N Moulis whose telephone number is 703 308-2618. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Yuen can be reached on 703 308-1946. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3747

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

tm



Thomas N. Moulis
Primary Examiner